



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

City Council Resolution: 22-0127R

Informational Hearing - 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Sponsor: Councilmember McCray, et al

Introduced: August 15, 2022

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Department of Finance, the Baltimore City Law Department, and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss the implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, its anticipated impact on individuals that use this resource, and the implementation plan for Baltimore City.

Effective: Upon enactment

AGENCY REPORTS

Health Department	
Fire Department	
Police Department	
Department of Finance	
City Solicitor	Favorable

ANALYSIS

The resolution invites agency representatives and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss the implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, its anticipated impact on individuals that use this resource, and the implementation plan for Baltimore City.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available around the clock, 365 days a year, to help people facing a mental health or substance use emergency. The 988 Lifeline provides an alternative to calling 911 or going to the hospital emergency room. When someone in Maryland calls 988, their call is routed to one of the state's eight call centers. Ideally, callers will quickly be connected to a trained crisis counselor who will provide support to the individual and, if necessary, dispatch a mobile crisis response unit to take the individual to a crisis stabilization location.

The 988 Lifeline launched nationally on Saturday, July 16, 2022. It is the product of the federal National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, a law aimed at creating a pathway to mental health care that is easy for those in need to access. Maryland operated its own crisis hotline (211 press 1) prior to the creation of the 988 Lifeline and that number will remain in operation and accessible to Marylanders throughout the transition period and beyond.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s):

- Maryland Department of Health: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Pages/988md.aspx>
- Reporting Agencies
- Resolution 22-0127R

Analysis by: 
Analysis Date: October 21, 2022

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